

REMARKS

In the Office Action, the Examiner noted that Claims 1-24 are pending in the application and that Claims 1-24 are rejected. By this response, Claims 21-24 are cancelled and Claims 25-28 are newly added. In view of the above amendments and the following discussion, Applicants submit that none of the claims now pending in the application are anticipated under the provisions of 35 U.S.C. §102. Thus, Applicants believe that all of these claims are now in condition for allowance.

Rejection Of Claims Under 35 U.S.C. §102

The Examiner rejected Claims 1-24 as being anticipated by Richardson (United States Patent 6,606,735, issued August 12, 2003). Claims 21-24 have been cancelled. The rejection of Claims 1-20 is respectfully traversed.

More specifically, the Examiner stated that Richardson discloses obtaining a rule document, generating a table file from the rule document, obtaining a parameterized rule file, and mapping values associated with rules in the table file to matching rules in the parameterized file. (Office Action, p. 2). The Examiner further stated that Richardson teaches a data structure comprising a plurality of logical operations associated with respective rules names each of which comprises a rule indicator. (Office Action, p. 5). The Examiner concluded that Richardson anticipates Applicants' invention recited in Claims 1, 10, and 21. Applicants respectfully disagree.

Richardson discloses expressing DRC rules in a high-level programming language, referred to as meta language. The meta language is independent of a language of a specific verification tool (native language). (Richardson, col. 4, lines 10-25). DRC rules in the meta language may be categorized into several types respectively associated with templates (DRC templates). The DRC templates map each DRC rule in the meta language onto one or more rules in the native language. (Richardson, col. 4, lines 26-40). A user specifies a DRC rule in the meta language by noting the name of the template, the layer(s) of the integrated circuit design on which the DRC check is to be applied, and values to be used in applying the DRC rule. A runset generator searches a template library for the named template and, if the template is found, generates an instruction in the native language. (Richardson, col. 5,

lines 37-50).

Richardson, however, does not teach each and every element of Applicants' invention recited in claim 1. Specifically, Applicants' claim 1 positively recites:

A method for generating a rule-based file, comprising:
obtaining a rule document;
generating a table file from the rule document;
obtaining a parameterized rule file;
mapping values associated with rules in the table file to matching rules in the parameterized rule file.

Richardson does not teach or suggest mapping values associated with rules in a table file to matching rules in a parameterized rule file. First, Richardson does not teach or suggest mapping rule values to matching rules in a parameterized rule file. Rather, Richardson discloses mapping a rule expressed in one language (the meta language) to a rule expressed in another language (a native language of a tool). That is, Richardson discloses a rule-to-rule mapping mechanism, rather than the value-to-rule mapping mechanism recited in claim 1.

Second, the runset generator of Richardson does not map rule values in a table file generated from a rule document to matching rules in a parameterized rule file. Rather, the runset generator of Richardson attempts to match each DRC rule in the meta language with a corresponding template. Moreover, although Richardson discloses generation of a rule table from the DRC rules in the meta language, Richardson does not teach or suggest that values in the rule table are used to find matching templates in the template library. Rather, the templates are matched to the DRC rules in the meta language.

"Anticipation requires the presence in a single prior art reference disclosure of each and every element of the claimed invention, arranged as in the claim."

Lindemann Maschinenfabrik GmbH v. American Hoist & Derrick Co., 221 USPQ 481, 485 (Fed. Cir. 1984). Since Richardson does not teach or suggest mapping values associated with rules in a table file to matching rules in a parameterized rule file, Richardson does not teach each and every element of Applicants' claim 1. Therefore, Applicants contend that the invention recited in claim 1 is not anticipated by Richardson and, as such, fully satisfies the requirements of 35 U.S.C. §102.

Claim 10 recites, among other features, a signal bearing medium having a program which, when executed by a processor, causes execution of the step of mapping values associated with rules in a table file to matching rules in a parameterized rule file. Claim 25 recites, among other features, a means for mapping values associated with rules in a table file to matching rules in a parameterized rule file. As discussed above, Richardson fails to teach or suggest these features. Therefore, Applicants contend that Claims 10 and 25 are also not anticipated by Richardson and are allowable.

Claims 2-9, 11-20, and 26-28 depend, either directly or indirectly, from Claims 1, 10, and 15 and recite additional features therefor. Since Richardson does not anticipate Applicants' invention as recited in claims 1, 10, and 25, dependent Claims 2-9, 11-20, and 26-28 are also not anticipated and are allowable.

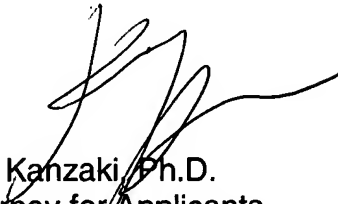
CONCLUSION

Thus, the Applicant submits that none of the claims presently in the application are anticipated under the provisions of 35 U.S.C. § 102. Consequently, the Applicant believes that all these claims are presently in condition for allowance. Accordingly, both reconsideration of this application and its swift passage to issue are earnestly solicited.

If, however, the Examiner believes that there are any unresolved issues requiring any adverse final action in any of the claims now pending in the application, it is requested that the Examiner telephone Mr. Kim Kanzaki, Esq. at (408) 879-6149 so that appropriate arrangements can be made for resolving such issues as expeditiously as possible.

All claims should be now be in condition for allowance and a Notice of Allowance is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,



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I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450, on August 16, 2005.

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